

East Windsor Board of Finance
Budget Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 16th, 2013
7:00 pm.
East Windsor High School Cafeteria
Draft Minutes

Members present: Jason Bowsza, Danelle Godeck, Sharon Tripp, Jerilyn Corso, Kathy Pippin, Gilbert Hayes

Members absent: Joe Pellegrini, Paulette Broder

The public hearing was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Jason Bowsza.

Mr. Bowsza gave a brief overview of the budget process, including proposed expenditures, anticipated revenues and the impact of 2012 revaluation on the budget.

After the conclusion of the budget explanation as presented by the Board of Finance, the meeting was then opened up for comments from the public.

Jack Mannette of 15 Old Ellington Road spoke about his desire to see more information put out for the general public, although did not elaborate as to how to accomplish this. He questioned the town's commitment to transparency. Mr. Mannette voiced his displeasure with the exclusion of now-eliminated state revenues from the town's budget. He also complained about salaries and benefits being, in his view, out of control. He was also upset to have seen the town pay down debt associated with the purchase of a fire truck earlier than was necessary.

Steve Dearborn of 144 East Road said that he preferred when his property was valued higher than it is now. He complained that he has not seen sufficient investment on the town's part in new buildings or in attracting new companies. He has seen what he feels is a significant increasing in taxes. He feels government at all levels is out of control.

D. James Barton of 158 South Water Street opposed the proposal put forward by the Board of Selectmen to transfer administrative functions from the Warehouse Point Fire District to the Town of East Windsor. He is supportive of the potential for paid part-time firefighters to supplement the volunteer fire service in both departments in town. He does object to the transfer of administrative functions away from the district.

Bill Dove of 109 Melrose Road noted that the Capital Improvement Plan is increasing by \$500,000 in this budget proposal. He'd like to see more detail as to how that increase was to be spent.

Marie DeSousa of 10 Rice Road said that she believes due diligence has been done to reduce excessive staffing across town government. She also supports the plan that is incorporated into this budget to address long term Capital Improvements. She voiced her displeasure with baseless accusations that occur each budget season, and noted that lean budgets year after year have restricted growth in town.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:38pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Bowsza
Chairman, East Windsor Board of Finance